

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 2 has been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1 and 3-35 are pending. Claims 3-35 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 is under active consideration.

Claim 1 has been amended to obviate the objection noted in paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action dated January 29, 2004. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Section 102 rejection of claim 1 over Wilson (U.S. Patent No. 5,502,937), is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested as Wilson fails to teach discreet layers. In fact, column 7, line 27 of the cited patent teaches the existence of a third layer which is intermingled with the individual fibers of the first layer. The structure of the cited patent does not include discreet layers. As the cited document fails to teach each and every aspect of the presently claimed invention, withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection is requested.

An indication of the allowability of claim 1 is requested.

DINWOODIE
Appl. No. 09/986,194
July 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:pp
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100